

We claim:

- 1 In a television system in which at least program title information for programs which are to be transmitted in the future is transmitted in advance to form a channel guide list,  
5 apparatus comprising:
  - memory means for storing data representing said channel guide list and for storing user-entered data;
  - data entry means for entering said user-entered data;
  - control means for performing a search of said channel  
10 guide listing for a match to specific user-entered information;
  - on-screen display means for displaying text or graphics under control of said control means; and
  - means for selecting a television program for viewing;
  - upon successful conclusion of said search, said control  
15 means schedules a selection of said television program, or controls said on-screen display means to notify said user of an availability of said television program.
- 20 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein, when television program-descriptive text accompanies said channel guide list, said control means performs a search of said television program-descriptive text for a particular text string which may relate to title, star, director, or context of said television program.  
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3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein, in response to user-entered data said control means controls said on-screen display means to display a list of user-entered search criteria, and user-  
30 entered instructions for execution after successful completion of each search.

4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein, said on-screen user-entered instructions for execution after successful completion of  
 5 each search include instructions to record said television program and instructions to notify the user of an availability of said television program.

10 5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein, said control means notifies said user of said availability of said television program by modifying a portion of channel guide display relating to said  
 program.

15 6. The apparatus of claim 1 further including a remote control unit wherein, said user-entered data is entered by means of a screen displayed keyboard operated by selecting keys of said keyboard via cursor commands transmitted by said remote  
 20 control unit.

7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein, said user-entered search criteria form logically-ORed search terms.  
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8. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein, said user-entered search criteria form logically-ANDed search terms.

9. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein, said user-entered search criteria form logical compound statements employing logic operators, such as AND, OR, NOT, or XOR to logically-connect search terms.

10. In a system in which at least program title information for television programs which are to be transmitted in the future is transmitted to form a channel guide list, apparatus comprising:  
memory means for storing data representing said channel guide list and for storing user-entered data;  
15 data entry means for entering said user-entered data;  
control means for performing a search of said channel guide listing for a match to specific user-entered information;  
on-screen display means for displaying text under control of said control means; and  
20 upon successful conclusion of said search, said control means controls said on-screen display means to notify said user of an availability of said television program.

25 11. In a television system in which at least program title information for programs which are to be transmitted in the future is transmitted in advance to form a channel guide list, a television program searching method, comprising the steps of:  
storing in a memory means data representing said  
30 channel guide list and storing user-entered data;  
entering said user-entered data via a data entry means;  
performing a search of said channel guide listing for a match to specific user-entered information; and

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upon successful conclusion of said search, scheduling a selection of said television program, or notifying said user of an availability of said television program.

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12. The method of claim 10 wherein, when television program-descriptive text accompanies said channel guide list, including the further step of:

performing a search of said television program-  
10 descriptive text for a particular text string which may relate to title, star, director, or context of said television program.

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